

DYNAMICS

Playing your instrument with different volumes helps make the music interesting. "Dynamics" refers to how loud and soft we play. We have signs that composers put in the music to tell us how loud or soft to play or to gradually get louder and softer. These signs are:

f = forte (strong)

p = piano (soft)

ff = fortissimo (very strong)

pp = pianissimo (very soft)

mf = mezzo forte (medium strong)

mp = mezzo piano (medium soft)



Crescendo (gradually increase volume)



Diminuendo or decrescendo (gradually decrease volume)

Being able to play with a wide range of dynamics depends on your strength and the range that you are playing. Performing dynamics well is an important part of musicianship.

Take a big breath.

1. ***p*** ***f*** ***p***

Try holding this note for as long as you can using a crescendo and diminuendo.

PLAY THIS EXERCISE SLOWLY

Take a big breath.

2. ***p*** ***mp*** ***mf*** ***f*** ***mf*** ***mp*** ***p***

MARY HAD A CHANGED DYNAMIC

3. ***f*** ***p*** ***f*** ***p*** ***ff***

YANKEE DOODLE DYNAMICS

4. ***f*** ***p*** ***f***

WAKE UP! WAKE UP!

(I don't want to.)

5. ***f*** ***p*** ***f*** ***p***